

GayCommunity News

THE WEEKLY FOR LESBIANS AND GAY MALES

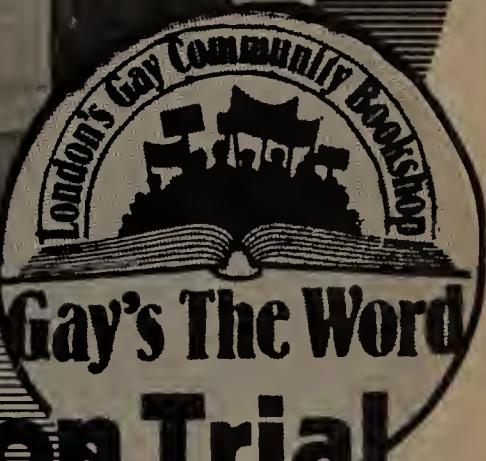
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Lesbian & Gay Bookshop Trial in London

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Gay = homosexual practices = obscenity

Gay's the Word, Crown Clash at Hearings

By Ed Cohen

LONDON — As thousands of Britain's lesbians and gay men participated in Gay and Lesbian Pride Week activities here, the committal hearings against Gay's the Word Bookshop began June 24. The nine directors of England's only gay and lesbian bookstore appeared in court to answer 100 charges stemming from the alleged importation of "indecent or obscene" materials — that is, books and magazines by, for, and about the gay and lesbian community.

The charges stem from a series of raids and seizures, code-named "Operation Tiger," made by officers of Her Majesty's (HM) Customs and Excise upon the bookstore and the homes of its directors in April, 1984. Authorized under the provisions of the 1876 Customs Consolidation Act, which prohibits the importation of "indecent or obscene" materials, customs and excise officials took possession of over eight hundred

volumes, most of which had been published in the U.S. Since that time, they have singled out 142 titles in particular which they believe violate the obscenity test provided in the Customs Act: i.e., that the "ordinary man in the street" would think them "in poor taste." Until now HM Customs have failed to put this test into force, focusing instead on harassment of the recipients of gay and lesbian texts through opening packages, detaining materials, and confiscating books and journals. However, by bringing criminal charges, they have signaled a new level of official homophobic activity.

The extent of HM Custom's intensified anti-gay and -lesbian campaign became increasingly apparent throughout the committal hearings as officials sought to convince Stipendiary Magistrate Burke that there was sufficient evidence to bring the case to trial at the Old Bailey. Under cross-examination

by defense barrister Geoffrey Robinson, customs and excise official Robin Fallow disclosed that under "Operation Tiger" he systematically opened packages addressed to individuals whom he considered "suspect."

Customs officer Aftar Singh Huntal said it was customary to stop gay books regardless of destination and to pass them on to headquarters. And in perhaps the most succinct statement of HM Customs practice — if not policy — officer Derek John Riely said that he associated the word "gay" in Gay's the Word with homosexuality, and homosexual practices with obscenity: "It is my opinion as a normal person that certain acts may be considered indecent."

As a consequence of HM Customs' practice, lesbians and gay men in Britain are in danger of losing access to books written and published about gay and lesbian experience in other countries. The titles explicitly named in the obscenity charges against Gay's the Word range from *The Joy of Gay Sex* and *The Joy of Lesbian Sex* to Jean Genet's *Querelle*, Allen Ginsberg and Peter Orlovsky's *Straight Heart's Delight*, and Patricia Nell Warren's *The Front Runner*, as well as copies of *The Native* and *Gay Sunshine*. In all of these texts the only determinant of "indecent or obscene" status was a focus on gay and lesbian concerns. In fact, it became clear in the committal hearings, which ended July 12, that in most cases customs officials had not read the books before confiscating them.

As both the prosecution and the defense put their closing arguments before the magistrate, lines were clearly drawn. For HM Customs and Excise, Lawson Rogers argued that books about gay and lesbian life could be seen as "offending against the recognized standards of propriety" and hence should be classified as "indecent or obscene" under the 1876 Act, which would ban them from

Britain. He noted that although gay men and lesbians did constitute a portion of the community, their interests did not necessarily fall within the range of

materials which the general public would think proper.

Defense barrister Robinson countered this claim by attempting

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U.S. Supports Gay's the Word

By Marcos Bisticas-Cocoves

PHILADELPHIA — Support for London's beleaguered community bookstore, Gay's the Word, is being organized across the country in the form of fundraisers, resolutions by a variety of organizations, and letters of protest to the British government. These efforts have included:

- A benefit organized by Hollywood's gay and lesbian bookstore, A Different Light. The event, held at downtown Los Angeles' Variety Arts Theatre on April 21, raised between \$2500 and \$3000, and drew upwards of 450 people. The benefit included poetry and prose readings, music, a raffle, and an auction of inscribed books. A number of other gay and lesbian bookstores either held benefits on the 21st or donated a portion of the day's sales. These included A Different Light in New York, L'Androgynie in Montreal, Glad Day in Boston, Chosen Books in Detroit, A Brother's Touch in Minneapolis, and Lambda Passing in Miami.

- A similar resolution passed June 1 at the Third National Women in Print Conference held at the University of California campus in Berkeley.

- A similar resolution also passed at the 104th Annual Conference of the American Library Association (ALA) on July 8. The resolution, entitled "Restriction on the Importation of Books and Periodicals in the United Kingdom," mandated the ALA as an organization to write a letter to the British Embassy in Washington, D.C. to "express concern...about the restrictions on access to information in the United Kingdom through the seizure of imported books and periodicals."

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Pink triangles worn

Mass. Women Link Kenya/U.S. Issues

By Stephanie Poggi

BOSTON — Women planning to attend the End of the Decade United Nations Conference protested Governor Michael Dukakis' anti-gay foster care policy and criticized the official U.S. delegation at a send-off ceremony in their honor. Governor Dukakis and Mrs. Kitty Dukakis hosted the June 27 ceremony at the State House for 150 Massachusetts delegates to Forum '85 — the non-governmental portion of the international conference for women, held between July 10 and July 19 in Nairobi, Kenya. The official U.N. Conference, attended by government delegates, began July 15 and ended July 26.

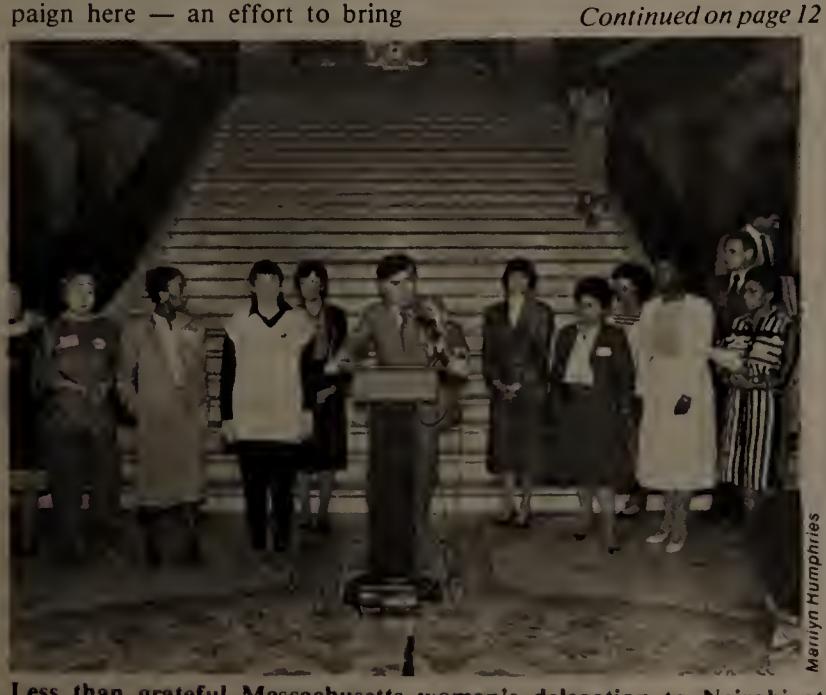
Many members of both the Massachusetts delegation to Nairobi and the audience wore pink triangles throughout the ceremony in protest of the state's foster policy, which also discriminates against single parents. In addition, speakers linked the goals of the U.N. Conference to the Up to Poverty campaign here — an effort to bring

state welfare grants up to federal poverty rates, which the Governor does not support.

Pam Jones, a Black woman, spoke for the Massachusetts Women's Coalition for Nairobi, a multi-racial group from different cultural and economic backgrounds, which is made up of Passage to Kenya, Streetfeet Theatre Company, Women for Racial and Economic Equality, Women's International News Service, Cape Cod United Nations Assoc. USA, Women's Video Collective, Women's Health Book Collective, Jewish Community Relations Council, Network to Nairobi, and some individuals. Jones blasted the Reagan administration, the official delegation to the conference headed by Maureen Reagan, and stressed "a shared concern about the status of women in Massachusetts, in the U.S., in South Africa, in El Salvador, in the Middle East, and all over the world."

She said, in part, "We have

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Less than grateful Massachusetts women's delegation to Nairobi at Dukakis-sponsored send off, June 27, State House.

Handing test results over to military opposed Pentagon Delays Policy on Military Blood Donors

By Marcos Bisticas-Cocoves

WASHINGTON, DC — The Department of Defense (DoD) announced on July 2 that it would delay implementation of a policy requiring civilian groups collecting blood on military bases to turn over the names of military personnel who test positive for HTLV-III antibody.

The announcement came from the office of Dr. William Mayer, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health, the Pentagon's top health affairs manager. It states that Mayer "has decided to delay implementation of the requirement for third party [parties other than the donor, such as military health officers] notifications of HTLV-III positive cases among active-duty military personnel by civilian blood collection agencies operating on military installations. During this interim period, Dr. Mayer is asking the Armed Forces

Epidemiological Board and the Surgeon General to review concerns expressed by civilian blood collection agencies and the significance of HTLV-III positivity to the armed forces."

The policy that has been delayed was announced in a March 13 memo from Lt. Col. Anthony Polk of the DoD Military Blood Program Office to the Surgeons General of the Army, Navy, and Air Force (see *GCN*, Vol. 12, no. 41). The memo stated that both military and civilian blood collection agencies must provide "positive test results for antibody to HTLV-III to the respective military health agency responsible for the medical evaluation and counseling of reactive donors." It went on to read that these test results should not be released to non-medical personnel.

In reaction to the original

memo, Red Cross officials said that it was their policy to reveal test results only to blood donors. At that time, Brian McDonough of the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank in San Francisco told *GCN* that, given Red Cross policy, "either the [military] policy will eventually change, or civilian agencies will stop taking blood at military installations."

According to Julian Barber of the DoD Health Affairs Office, the policy review is "not going to be a lengthy process," and should be over within the next few weeks. Barber declined to comment on the criteria to be used in the re-evaluation, stating that comment would be inappropriate until a final decision about the policy has been made.

The program was to have been implemented on June 30.

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News Notes

quote of the week

"At least half a dozen entrepreneurial companies are staking their futures on the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) epidemic, by developing blood tests to detect the virus, treatment for its sufferers, or seeking possible cures. As many as one million Americans are now infected and up to an estimated 200,000 of them will get the disease. But while the market for such products, sadly, is getting bigger, there may already be too many companies in the fray."

— Stephen J. Simurda, "Picking Plays in AIDS Research," *Venture* (a monthly magazine for venture capitalists), August 1985, expressing compassion in the marketplace.

portland library censors safe sex chart

PORLAND, ME — The May issue of *Our Paper* of Maine was banned from the free literature section of the Portland Public Library because a patron found a safe sex chart to be "objectionable material," according to *Our Paper*. The library's director concurred, saying he found the chart to be "outright pornography" and "an abuse of freedom of expression."

The collective which produces *Our Paper* warned the library it was prepared to file a lawsuit if the temporary ban became permanent. The Board of Trustees of the library unanimously defended the removal of the May issue from the free literature table, but said the paper would occupy its usual place thereafter.

new jersey prisoners file aids suit

AVENAL, NJ — Charging they are being "unlawfully subjected to a life-threatening" disease — AIDS — prisoners of the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center here filed suit May 13 against numerous public officials, according to *Philadelphia Gay News*.

Prisoners, who filed in U.S. District Court for themselves, as that "blood tests and other needed screening of AIDS be made on every New Jersey Department of Corrections inmate and all administrative staff," and that the results of tests "stating positive or negative be submitted to the chief inmate prosecutor, plaintiff [Ronald Telepo] and his assistant prosecutor plaintiff Louis Damien Hughes, and all lawyers representative of the court every six months after testing."

Telepo, Hughes, and other prisoners state that "AIDS has reached crisis-epidemic proportions" in the New Jersey State Corrections system and that officials, including Governor Thomas Kean, "are completely deliberately indifferent to the prison inmates' lives."

According to Dr. Richard Reed, chief medical officer for the Department of Corrections and vice chair of the Department of Health's AIDS Advisory Commission, the prisoners' suit "has no substance." Reed insists the Department of Corrections has "an extensive [AIDS] program with 'everything you could think of,' including videotapes and seminars. Reed also said, "We instruct them [the prisoners] no homosexuality and no drugs."

Robert Goodman, AIDS Education Coordinator for the New Jersey Lesbian and Gay Coalition, which declined to take the case, said that while the Coalition "does not support mandatory screening for staff and inmates...some of the issues [raised] are significant." At present, Goodman said, prison staff are "resistant" to providing "explicit information that could be deemed as encouraging certain behavior" — including safe sex materials. He added that he hopes the suit will provide "an opportunity to continue discussions" with the Department of Corrections about AIDS education.

The case is on hold until the U.S. District Court obtains an attorney for the prisoners bringing suit.

admitting the dikes (and fags)

AMSTERDAM, the Netherlands — Dutch Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers has announced the Cabinet's refusal to allow Christian organizations to discriminate against lesbians and gay men, according to *De Gay Krant*. The Christian Democrat Party, of which Lubbers is a member, had demanded that Christian groups be exempted from abiding by a new anti-discrimination law.

In addition, the City Council of Amsterdam has unanimously voted to withhold financial support from any organization which discriminates against gay men and lesbians. The new policy banning anti-queer discrimination applies to employers as well as to health and welfare organizations subsidized by the city.

albuquerque pride

ALBUQUERQUE, NM — Pride activities began here on June 15 with the annual Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade. Members of the North Valley Gospel Church baited the 200 participants who marched undaunted despite the poor turnout. An additional 200 lesbians and gay men joined the marchers for the Pride Fiesta which followed — a relaxing afternoon of food, drink, entertainment, and an interfaith religious service.

In addition to the parade and fiesta, Lesbian and Gay Pride Week featured two educational forums. One, hosted by the New Mexico AIDS Services, was a presentation by Jerry Coash of the Shanti Foundation.

The second, hosted by the New Mexico Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance (NML/GPA), was a political forum with city councilor Steve Gallegos, state representative Cisco McSorely, and Ron McDaniels from the Governor's office. The NML/GPA recently lobbied New Mexico Governor Toney Anaya for an executive order prohibiting discrimination in state employment and state contracting. When Governor Anaya signed the executive order, New Mexico became the sixth state with such a measure.



"Caught in the Act" at Albuquerque Lesbian/Gay Pride

"Caught in the Act," Albuquerque's fourth annual lesbian and gay variety show, was one of the highlights of the week. Produced on behalf of Common Bond, Albuquerque's largest lesbian and gay community organization, the show offered square dancing and clogging to comedians, several choruses, dance productions, and theater.

Other activities of the week included a book signing by Mike Shearer, a buffet dinner hosted by the Parents and Friends of Gays, a classical music concert, a mountain hike, a benefit dance to raise money for the upcoming trial of six Albuquerque women charging they were harassed at a private party by members of the Albuquerque police, and a drag/strip show benefit for the NML/GPA.

— filed by Neil Isbin

necking at the zoo

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Reuters news service reports that three male giraffes at Taipai Zoo "turned gay" after their female companion died, according to the *Advocate*. Chen Pao-Chun, the zookeeper, said the zoo was considering importing female giraffes from Africa because "we are running out of explanations for the children visiting the zoo."

north carolina cracks down on porn

RALEIGH, NC — On the same day that the North Carolina House enacted stricter obscenity laws, the Senate voted to put more restrictions on adult bookstores and theaters.

The Senate voted 48-1 for a bill that prohibits more than one person in an adult mini-movie viewing booth and prohibits a landlord from housing more than one type of pornography shop in a single building.

At the same time, the House ratified five Senate amendments that strengthen the state's obscenity laws. The new law provides for tougher penalties for child prostitution and child pornography, changes the statewide obscenity standard to a community standard and repeals the requirement that a judge declare material to be obscene before it can be seized.

The only dissenting vote cast on the Senate bill was that of Senator Melvin Watt, who said that the proposal was an overreaction and expressed fear that it would be abused by police.

Many senators seemed motivated by North Carolina's growing reputation as the "smut capital" of the country. North Carolina, which is said to have more adult bookstores and theaters per capita than any state in the nation, has not successfully prosecuted anyone under the obscenity laws enacted in 1974.

— filed from Winston-Salem by Marie Godwin

rock hudson diagnosed with aids

PARIS — After several days of contradictory reports, a spokesperson for Rock Hudson confirmed on July 25 that the Hollywood star has AIDS. Hudson is the most well-known American to date who has publicly acknowledged having the disease, and media coverage of his condition has been extensive.

According to Yanou Collart, a publicist for Hudson's long-time personal business manager Mark Miller, Hudson was diagnosed with AIDS over a year ago, and was going to Paris for consultation at the Institut Pasteur. The Institut Pasteur is France's principal AIDS research facility, where the virus LAV/HTLV-III was first identified by researcher Luc Montagnier. The Institut has received widespread notice for its use of an experimental treatment using the drug HPA23.

When Hudson became ill at his Parisian hotel, Miller advised him to enter the American Hospital in suburban Paris. Physicians at the hospital did not know of the AIDS diagnosis until they were later informed by Miller, and consequently suspected liver abnormalities as the cause of his illness. Hudson's condition is "improving daily," Collart said, and a decision concerning treatment will be made in the near future.

Media attention has been widespread, with newspapers including *USA Today* and the *Boston Herald* carrying stories on page one. In Boston, WZOU-FM disc jockey Dave Stewart caused a local furor after he laughed about Hudson's condition during his show. WZOU Program Manager Jim Cutler said Stewart was immediately reprimanded. "He made a big mistake and knows he made a big mistake." Cutler said Stewart apologized on the air the next day.

— filed from Boston

anti-porn ordinance drive in cambridge

CAMBRIDGE, MA — Members of the New York group, Feminists Fighting Pornography, have been soliciting signatures for a petition to introduce an anti-pornography ordinance here. The proposed legislation replicates the version drafted by Catherine MacKinnon and Andrea Dworkin in Minneapolis in 1984. The measure allows individual women to bring civil rights suits against producers and distributors of pornography. Similar legislation has been introduced in other cities around the country. Thus far, all attempts to use this approach have been defeated.

Many lesbians and gay men are opposed to the ordinances, arguing they constitute censorship, pose a threat to all sexual minorities, and would likely be used selectively against lesbian and gay publications. The Feminist Anti-Censorship Taskforce (FACT-Boston) is a local group opposed to anti-porn legislation. Anybody with further information on the local anti-porn organizing efforts can call FACT at (617) 661-3288.

— filed by Janice Irvine

conditions international women's issue

The Conditions Magazine Editorial Collective, having completed *Conditions: Eleven/Twelve*, is in the process of reorganizing and expanding the Collective in line with a commitment to multi-cultural, ethnic, racial, and class diversity. The goal of this reorganization is to bring together a group of editors to produce *Conditions: Thirteen, The International Women's Issue*, which will be published during the summer of 1986. The collective encourages women from all over the world to send poems, short fiction, essays, translations, book reviews, photographs (black & white), and visual art work for consideration. Submissions are welcome in a variety of forms from all women who feel that a commitment to women is an integral part of their lives.

While *Conditions* is an English-language publication, poems, short fiction, and prose (four pages, double-spaced) may be submitted in any language if accompanied by an English translation. However, longer work must be translated in English. Manuscripts should be typed and double-spaced. All submissions must be previously unpublished in the United States. Photographers and other visual artists are encouraged to submit any work appropriate for an 8 1/2" x 5" perfect bound, black and white format. Please send manuscripts and art work to:

CONDITIONS MAGAZINE
P.O. Box 56 Van Brunt Station
Brooklyn, New York 11215

Only manuscripts and photocopies accompanied by a self-addressed and stamped envelope will be returned. A fifty-word biographical statement, which includes date and place of birth and current residence, is requested with submission(s).

Gay Men Challenge Dentists on AIDS, Hep B

By Christine Guilfoy

BOSTON — A man with AIDS makes an appointment with a dentist who refuses to treat him at his office, but says he will treat him at a "special facility." To the gay man, it is a case of discrimination, and he files a complaint with the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD). To the dentist, it is a prudent move designed to provide protection, not for himself, but for his other patients.

A man who had Hepatitis B six years ago goes to a group practice where there is a special on teeth cleanings. In filling out a health history he says he has had hepatitis. The dentist tells him she will not treat him unless he first has himself tested to determine if he could be a carrier. The man suggests she should treat him as though he is a carrier, but she refuses.

These specific instances have occurred in Boston, but with the climb in AIDS cases, and the increased incidence of Hepatitis B, they could have occurred anywhere. They occur in a climate in which gay men generally, and gay men with AIDS in particular, have been discriminated against, losing their jobs and housing and having their access to public facilities limited. But in the case of the dentists, a debate is beginning to arise: are they being unnecessarily cautious, or are their actions medically sound?

"A patient with AIDS shouldn't have [any dental treatment] except in an emergency," Richard Bankhead, DMD, told *GCN*. He believes that persons with AIDS should avoid even routine cleanings for the sake of their own health. A general teeth cleaning, he explained, stirs up potentially infectious material within the mouth and also induces bleeding. For an individual with a normally functioning immune system, said Bankhead, there is negligible risk in the procedure. However, a person suffering an immune deficit, such as a person with AIDS, runs a much greater risk which Bankhead believes outweighs the benefit.

Bankhead said that for a person with a shortened life expectancy, cleanings and other types of work are usually unnecessary. But for a

person in pain, he believes, the obligation of the dentist is to treat him.

The guidelines for treating a person with AIDS are the same as the guidelines for treating a person with Hepatitis B.

However, there is disagreement about those guidelines, with some dentists now saying that hospital conditions have to be approximated, an approximation currently impossible in most dental facilities. In the recent case of the man with AIDS, he maintained that the only "special facilities" necessary are gloves, gown, mask, and goggles. But the dentist said this does not take into account the need for special equipment to dispose of the saliva and blood which is sunctioned off during the course of treatment. Such material would normally go into the city sewer system. He also said that the handle to the drill needs to be "autoclavable" — that is, sterilizable by heat — but that most drills are not.

This dentist emphasized that he had volunteered his services to the AIDS Action Committee, but only if they provided a facility which he considered adequate. "I was not basing this on my personal safety, but on the safety of other patients." He explained that he believes he is protected by wearing the recommended mask, gloves, goggles, and gown.

The assessment that it is necessary to use facilities which approximate a hospital environment and where individuals are more highly trained is shared by Jim Chalmers, DMD, an administrator at Omnidentix, a facility which leases office space and equipment to dentists.

Chalmers also said that variations in the way dentists handle these cases are often due to relative inexperience and also to the lack of clear and specific guidelines from governing bodies such as the Department of Public Health, the Massachusetts Board of Dental Registration and the American Dental Association.

But Kenneth Mayer, MD, an AIDS researcher and medical director of Fenway Community Health Center, said AIDS epidemiology thus far would sug-

gest that special facilities are unnecessary. While stressing he was not familiar with dental equipment, he said that evidence that the virus is inactivated by a 10 percent solution of bleach would suggest that equipment could be adequately cleaned with a regimen of the solution followed up by cleansing with alcohol. He also said the HTLV-III virus can be inactivated by heat. In response to the problem of disposal of saliva, he said it could be handled by flushing the drain with a bleach solution. Although one dentist was concerned about the spray common in dental practice as a source of transmission, Mayer said the fact that there are no known cases of a dentist who is not in a high-risk group coming down with AIDS would suggest that such a route is not a mode of transmission.

Concern about facilities is not the only issue. In the case of the

dentist who wanted the Hepatitis B antigen test, she later told *GCN* that she probably would have treated the man, even if he turned out to be a carrier. The man involved said he asked that he be treated as though he were a carrier so that he could avoid the time and expense of taking the test. He points out the monetary penalty, as well as the loss of personal time, for a test which will not make a difference in his treatment. But she maintains it is needed information for his own medical history.

But if dentists feel they need special facilities, what implications does that have for the safety of anybody who sits in the dental chair?

Larry Kessler, the coordinator of Boston's AIDS Action Committee, told *GCN*, "Any dentist who can't treat an AIDS patient, can't treat anyone. He could be giving AIDS or hepatitis to other

people. He should get the equipment or close up shop."

Another member of the AAC, Bob Andrews, agrees with Kessler. He pointed out that there are people who carry diseases without realizing it. (This is the premise that a Red Cross official confirmed when he said that study of HTLV-III antibody-positive blood donors often revealed they were in a high-risk group but did not realize it.) Andrews also pointed out that if sufficient roadblocks are thrown up, some people may lie. Without taking precautions with everyone, there is increased risk of transmission.

Mayer echoed this, saying that it is often asymptomatic people who are infectious. Unless professionals are willing to stigmatize a particular group of people, an option which he firmly rejects, the best solution is to take the precautions with everybody.

Kevin H. McConville

BOSTON — When Kevin McConville died on July 15 of complications from AIDS, he was not yet 29 years old, but the number of people he had touched in that brief lifespan was readily apparent. Kevin left behind a mixture of words, deeds, and memories which are as intangible yet real as was his spirit.

He viewed the gay community as a family. "History is going to judge the gay community by how we respond to this crisis. It's a turning point for us," he said. And when he died he left a family: over 200 people attended his funeral.

One of the founders of the Boston AIDS Action Committee (AAC), Kevin was active on the Support Services Team before he himself was diagnosed with AIDS in May of 1984. He served as one of the early "buddies" to a person with AIDS, Bill Benneville. After Kevin's diagnosis, he continued his activity, doing interviews with the media, and he is perhaps best known for appearing on Public Television's *NOVA*, as well as on the local news show *Chronicle*, and was also known for his interview with print media such as *Gay Community News* (See Vol. 12, No. 19).

Kevin was also on the Boston Mayor's Committee on AIDS, whose chairperson, Ann Maguire, said of him, "Kevin had a real energy and love for life. He was able to use that energy and love in his fight for dignity, respect, and rights for all people with AIDS."

But Kevin's fight did not begin with AIDS, recalls Larry Kessler, who said when Kevin was in high school he worked in New York's Bowery alongside such political and social activists as Daniel Berrigan. And Kevin never gave up that fight, a fight for all to be treated with respect and dignity. In bringing a complaint about being refused dental treatment, he has raised issues which will continue to be discussed even after he has died.

But it is perhaps the instances where he came in contact with people outside the gay community that he also had an impact. A participant in the AAC's "Roadshow," he talked to audiences of his experiences as a person with AIDS, as a gay man and as a human being. "He was good and direct about dealing with homophobia, he just wouldn't let it slide by," said Kessler.

Kessler, who is also coor-



dinator of the AAC, described the complexity that was Kevin, at once confrontational and legitimately angry while also a thoughtful and patient individual. Describing him as a "contemplative activist," Kessler said Kevin "really mulled things over and thought them out. He understood the political and social implications of things." Kessler recalled qualities like "integrity, honesty, and a sharp sense of humor.... He had great one-liners — we always said we ought to put together a book of his quotes."

Bob Andrews, also a member of AAC, called him "intense...driven... He projected a tough image, but he had so many other sides to him. He was really bright, he was well read, he was a gourmet cook."

Kevin leaves a group of friends whom he has helped to prepare for his death. Kessler said the bar Fritz, where Kevin often went, held a reception following his memorial service at J.S. Waterman's in Kenmore Square. Bill Spitz of Fritz saw him as a "very independent figure," and Evan Anthony of Chaps remembers him as "a real champion fighter," while Bob Salterio said Kevin "will

always be in our hearts and minds and a source of courage, strength, and understanding in our daily lives."

Summarizing his thoughts about Kevin, Andrews said, "It's difficult to eulogize or reflect upon a friend whose death was so untimely without making them more than they really were. He had his faults as well as his strengths. He probably had a fair number of people who didn't like him or his politics and he was, at times, a difficult friend. But he was a friend and I loved him. He had a reverence for life, a compassion for others, and devotion to his principles that went beyond rhetoric. I'll remember him for his focused anger, the challenges he presented to both the AAC and the gay community to confront issues affecting people with AIDS, and his refusal to become a victim."

Kevin McConville, a gay man, person with AIDS, long-time activist, friend, world traveller, filmmaker, is survived by his family in Boston as well as his grandmother, Lucy McConville; a brother, Rudy; three aunts, Mary Holden, Maureen Babo, and Mary Lou McConville, all of whom reside in New Jersey.

Gay's Word

Continued from page 1

to introduce as evidence copies of heterosexual pornography readily available in any corner shop. He contended that this proved that "community standards" bore materials of a much more explicit nature than those named in the charges. Robinson also argued that the standards for "indecency" were arbitrary insofar as they freely permitted the explicit depiction of heterosexual fantasy yet attempted to ban serious literary and non-fiction texts about the lesbian and gay experience. The court did not seem impressed.

As *GCN* goes to press, Magistrate Burke is slated to spend the next few weeks reviewing excerpts from the books confiscated by HM Customs and Excise, and will decide whether the case should go to trial on August 20. If he decides that the case should go to trial, the government has up to 18 months to act on the decision.

Of 110 original charges, 107 still stand. Three charges against Pod Hagerty, assistant manager of Gay's the Word, have been dropped because Customs and Excise failed to mention him in its presentation of evidence.

If people want to help Gay's the Word, they can:

1) Send contributions. Checks can be made out to Gay's the Word Defence Fund, and sent to

Giovanni's Room, 345 South 12th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107, or to Defend Gay's the Word Campaign, 66 Marchmont Street, London, WC7, ENGLAND.

2) Complain. Write to British Embassy-Chancery, 3100 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008.

Support

Continued from page 1

• Ongoing support, coordinated by Philadelphia's gay and lesbian bookstore, Giovanni's Room. 3000 of the 4000 books and periodicals seized by British Customs agents were shipped by Giovanni's Room, and Ed Hermance, co-owner of the store, has been charged as a co-conspirator in the case, although British officials are not pressing charges because they lack jurisdiction to do so.

Organizing at Giovanni's Room is taking two forms. First, the bookstore is channelling American contributions to Gay's the Word through its London account, thus taking advantage of better American exchange rates. Second, should the committal hearing recommend that the case go to trial (see related article, this issue), Giovanni's Room will solicit contributions from around the country, including from publishers and trade organizations like the ABA.

— filed from Boston

Community Voices

Staff Reporter Opening

GCN is currently accepting applications for a full-time staff reporter to begin on or about October 1, 1985. Position involves investigating and writing news stories of interest to gay men and lesbians on a weekly basis, as well as participating in the paper's collective decision-making process.

Qualifications: Strong writing skills and ability to write under weekly deadline pressures. Knowledge of local/national gay and lesbian community and issues helpful. Must have commitment to gay and lesbian liberation, anti-racist politics, and the collective decision-making process. **Salary:** \$150/week, plus paid health/life insurance, three weeks' paid vacation. **To apply:** please send resume and cover letter to Reporter Search Committee, GCN, 167 Tremont Street, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02111.

Gay men and lesbians of color are particularly encouraged to apply.

GCN welcomes letters to the editor. If possible, they should be TYPED and DOUBLESPACED, and where possible limited to five typed pages. They should be sent to: Community Voices, GCN, 167 Tremont St. #5, Boston, MA 02111.

gcn off balance?

Dear GCN:

I am in receipt of your latest appeal for funds. I am sad that I cannot (or will not) send any. Sad, because while once you provided me with a reasonably balanced paper reflecting what I perceived to be your readership in Boston, at least, I do not feel you serve me now. Over the years you have gradually stopped representing the Gay Male, and seem to concentrate almost exclusively on 1) Politics, and 2) Feminist Issues. How many pages of interviews with Feminist Authors, commentary about the Political Correctness of the offerings of Feminist Musician in concert, and endless debates over Female S&M there have been!! This trend has continued to the point that often now there are more column inches devoted to Feminist Issues and articles than to all other subjects combined. I have no hatred for my Gay sisters, or anyone else, but do resent their "taking over" the paper that used to serve us all.

I do know that I am not alone in these feelings. Several of my friends have let their subscriptions lapse for this reason. I suggested that they write in protest, but most, if not all, voiced the feeling that it is a lost cause. Perhaps, but I feel it is worth a try to at least let you know how some of us feel. Knowing that you are a collective, probably dominated by Gay females, I do not have great hopes, either. Perhaps you would like to hear from more of your readership on this issue. If so, why not run my letter as correspondence and solicit debate? The results might just surprise you enough to restore a better balance.

It also could be that if you better served your whole readership, male as well as female, that you would receive more financial support from the entire Gay Community, which is what the news is, or should be all about.

Sincerely,
Eric V. Johnson
Waltham, MA

honest and thorough coverage

Dear GCN:

On behalf of the Staff and Projects of the Women's Center in Cambridge, we are writing to commend you for your coverage of issues of concern to the feminist, lesbian and gay, and progressive communities over the past twelve years.

In the recent period we have particularly appreciated your coverage of the role of lesbians and gay men in solidarity with the struggle of the Nicaraguan people, of the local actions in protest of U.S. support for apartheid in South Africa, and of the movement to defeat the Governor's policies prohibiting DSS placements of foster children in gay or single-parent homes.

We also appreciate the efforts you make to cover honestly and thoroughly controversies within our community.

The Women's Center wants to encourage everyone to support GCN — because of the role GCN plays on a national level as a reporter to and organizer of lesbian and gay movements and because of the special role GCN has played in Boston — as our only local weekly newspaper of the left.

We thank you.

In struggle,
The Women's Center
Cambridge, MA

card-carrying bisexuals?

Dear GCN:

Last Thursday night a woman friend and I were denied entrance to the 1270 club on Boylston Street. I am an "out" bisexual woman, active in the bisexual community and other women's activities. I frequent the gay women's bars in Boston, and I have gone dancing at the 1270 many times. I was therefore very surprised to be suddenly turned away at the door. We were treated rudely, were asked for a form of identification that others being admitted were not asked for, and were not given a clear answer as to what was going on; after my truly bewildered questions about why we could not go in — our drivers licenses were valid and showed us to be well over drinking age — the bouncer told the policeman standing nearby to remove us. One of the security people inside the club was extremely nasty to us. I felt wounded and hassled for no good reason.

Standing outside the club I realized what had happened — the bouncers had thought we were straight women because we were wearing clothes appropriate to a young friend's high school graduation, from which we had just come. We talked to the policeman and to people going in and out of the club, and they verified that the club does not want straights there and is very firm about keeping them out. Apparently they have had trouble with straights coming in and hassling people.

I can sympathize with this attitude. We want to feel safe when we go dancing, to feel that we are among allies even if the rest of the world is hostile to us. I understand their not letting us in, yet I feel torn because the verbal rudeness and hostility were misplaced and shocking. It felt like a reversed roles re-enactment of precisely the kind of discrimination that Gays (and every other minority group, for that matter) have experienced in the straight world: "We don't want your kind in here!"

Still, I am not condemning the 1270 for this kind of discrimination. They have probably had to fight battles that straight clubs have not. The concern I have is this: It is getting harder to tell the good guys from the bad guys than it was ten, even five years ago. A lot of gay and bisexual women and men do not dress in clothes that immediately identify them with their sexual preference, and a growing number straights are cool people who enjoy dancing with their female and male friends, regardless of sexual preference. Many of us bisexuals identify with Lesbians and Gays politically and socially; we contribute a great deal of energy to the community and want to be accepted by it. It is a slap in the face when we get rejected.

I don't know how a club like 1270 could integrate this information into their front door policy — the idea of a bisexual or gay identification card seems ludicrous, though I'd carry one if it existed. But I do know that incidents like the one I experienced can, unfortunately, serve to alienate the people who are on their side. After the ordeal my first impulse was to say, To hell with them, let's go to a straight club — which would have been the first time for me in years. Instead, I went home and brooded about it.

I would like to hear reactions from others in the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual communities.

Sincerely,
Mary-Charlotte Domandi
Jamaica Plain, MA

Send me Gay Community News!

Mail to: GCN Subscriptions, 167 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111
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self hate vs. unity

Dear GCN,

I am responding to the letter I received from you about whether I am still getting my GCN. I have been, and look forward to every issue. It's a fantastic paper and receiving it is very much appreciated.

Here at MCI Norfolk there is no gay support group of any kind, which is too bad, because in a prison with a population of 1100 there should be. Maybe if there was and the gays were united there would not be so much abuse. I am proud of who I am and am willing to do something, but it seems most of the gays here are afraid to stand up and be constructive to help our cause. There are a few of us who do not hide who we are, but even this group is not united among ourselves enough to have a serious discussion. It seems some people only know how to cut others down instead of doing something together. This is really sad! We as gays have enough to deal with from the straight population and should be supportive of each other. Any advice would be appreciated on this. Thanks again to all at GCN,

John Gavirno
Box 43, W40127
Norfolk, MA 02056

what's the price?

Dear GCN,

I ask you what's the price a man or woman must pay for their offense which some of the society say they have committed? (Did the man or woman really commit an "offense"?.) Maybe the society has committed the biggest offense by pre-judging a person without knowing the real facts. Society has a tendency to overreact and then condemn. But when one of them or their loved ones is in trouble, they are the first to cry out. If they would only look close they would see their part of the responsibility for not seeing that jobs are provided to all who need them. (Then the state uses us for cheap labor, and makes big profits; convenient, no?)

Friends, do you think men and women in America's prison systems are born thieves, doing this just for the hell of it? If so, you are badly mistaken. You should take the time to understand why these things happen, and help deal with the problem before imprisonment (warehousing and slave/cheap labor) becomes an issue.

I ask you, what is the price people must pay? Must it be endless nights of loneliness and despair, and often the taking of lives (your own or others, out of frustration) because it looks very much like no one cares, or ever will again ("ex-con"!).

So I'm asking, let's stop and take a look around and see what's really going down. Because we as a gay community know what life and love are all about and most of all we know ourselves. Let's get together and let each other know (including prisoners) that we care about each other.

Sincerely,
Frank Randall
Box 316 205711
Fort Madison, IA 52627

Got a question about AIDS?

Call the AIDS Action Committee

HOTLINE

Boston: 536-7733

Toll-free: 1-800-272-2577

Defense Committee Update

The Gay/Lesbian Defense Committee's Outreach Task Force is sponsoring a **Speakers' Bureau** to speak to groups about the new foster care policy in Massachusetts and its ramifications for working mothers, single mothers, people of color, family daycare workers, and gay men and lesbians. Volunteers are needed to speak to these groups and educate them about the policy.

The Outreach Task Force will offer two 3-hour training sessions for interested volunteers. The training will include a general discussion of the policy, its effects on various groups, and public speaking training. The training is free.

We need your help! This policy affects us all because it is racist, sexist, and homophobic. Bring ideas — names or types of groups you would like to reach — or let us assign one to you.

Training sessions will be held on Thursday, August 1, at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, September 7, at 6:00 p.m. Please call for more information: Sue 576-6788 or Suzi 628-4165.

"Foster Equality" buttons will be available in late August for \$1.

Write or call Attorney General Francis Bellotti to thank him for publicly condemning the state's foster policy, which he described as "discriminatory." Write him at One Ashburton Place-Room 1611, Boston, MA 02108, or call (617) 727-2254.

Dukakis Watch

Tuesday, July 30 — Meet 7:45 p.m. Administration Building, Arnold Arboretum on the Arborway, Jamaica Plain to picket a Dukakis fundraiser.

Saturday, August 3 — Meet 9:15 a.m. Faneuil Hall, for Eastern Region fairness hearing of the Democratic National Committee. Local and state politicians will be present.

For Dukakis Watch Information, call (617) 628-6007, 267-7705 or 396-0586.

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Community Voices

what oob stands for

Dear GCN:

We were very disappointed to see you use "OOB" as an acronym for the magazine *On Our Backs* (GCN, May 25). *oob* has been *off our backs*' alternate name for the past 15 years, as most — but presumably not all — of you at GCN know. We assume this was a genuine error, since we can't believe you would deliberately try to undercut another radical newspaper in this way. We're sure you don't wish to confuse and thereby put off potential readers of *off our backs* — since even this past month you've done joint publicity with us to help reach new readers.

We do feel it was kind of childish of *On Our Backs* to take a name so similar to ours — since it will confuse their potential readers as much as ours. It's a very peculiar attack on one feminist publication that has always tried to cover all sides of feminist debates, including that on sexuality. *off our backs* has devoted two special issues — in 1973 and 1984 — to sex, as well as numerous articles, reviews, and workshop reports.

If it's sophomoric of *On Our Backs* to call itself that, it would be positively suicidal for radical news journals such as yourselves to play along with the idea that "politics is boring," and that fantasy is more important than news. This past year has seen the emergence of several lesbian sex magazines, including *On Our Backs*, but it's also seen the demise of a greater number of radical newspapers. As essentially political publications, it's vital that we avoid falling into traps that have the effect of making a mockery of politics.

N.B.: For any reader of GCN who doesn't know, *off our backs* is the oldest surviving feminist newsjournal in the country. It covers national and international news and is famous (infamous?) for its lively and controversial reviews and letters pages. *oob* was the first paper, for example, to break the story of Naiad Press' sale to *Forum* of several excerpts from *Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence*, and carried the most extensive coverage of the debate around the Minneapolis/Indianapolis anti-pornography ordinances — giving, as always, perspectives from feminists on both sides, as well as those who refuse to be polarized. If you'd like to know what we think about the content of *On Our Backs*, there's an extensive review in the current issue of *oob*. And yes, we are *oob*, and intend to remain so.

In solidarity,
The *off our backs* collective: Carol Anne Douglas, Adriane Fugh-Berman, Alice Henry, Denise Kulp, Vickie Leonard, Tricia Lootens, Fran Moira, Lorraine Sorrel, and Ruth Wallsgrave
Washington, DC.

(Editor's note: In the May 25 GCN to which *off our backs* refers, all of the lesbian sex magazines were referred to by acronyms. The author assumed that capitalization of OOB for *On Our Backs* differentiated it from *off our backs*, which uses the lower-case acronym. We did not mean to imply any insult to *off our backs*, and we regret any confusion between the magazines that may have resulted. *off our backs* can be contacted at 1841 Columbia Road NW, Washington, DC 20009.)

SUBSCRIBE!

remembering richard nezda

Dear GCN:

I am writing in memory of a member of the Gay community, my friend Richard H. Nezda, who died on June 3, 1985, less than a year after he was diagnosed with Pneumocystis carinii. Born in Wisconsin, of Czech descent, he would have been 43 in November. His dear friend and former lover, Ron Kuhel, was with him at St. Vincent's Hospital in Greenwich Village when he died.

Richard and I were lovers for just over a year, during 1981 and 1982 and, in that time, helped each other out of a number of scrapes. I remember Richard telling of his former lover in San Francisco. David was one of the first diagnosed with what the *New York Times* had us calling the "Gay cancer." How vague, how remote it all seemed in 1981. When David died and Richard was in a quandary about proving ownership of books and records that were in David's home, I brought Richard to my supervisor at the State Attorney General's Office, who calmed and counseled him. When fire broke out in my apartment, Richard came in the middle of the night to console me and begin the frustrating cleanup. I convinced Richard to move and helped him settle into a new apartment when a roommate turned on him, threatening him with a knife.

After 14 years of teaching music, most recently to parochial school children in the Bronx, Richard decided a career change was in order. I was against it — he loved music and took such pride in his pupils' accomplishments — but cheered him when, scarcely finished with his word-processing course, he was hired to be the teacher.

I have fond memories of the things we shared: visits to the Cloisters and the Botanical Gardens; dinners in Chinatown; the adoption of two kittens, Salome and Electra; performances of *Amadeus*, Katherine Hepburn in *The West Side Waltz* and Elizabeth Taylor in *The Little Foxes*; waiting on line in the cold to see *On Golden Pond* and *Making Love* when they first opened; hearing Rosaline Tureck play Bach and Marilyn Horne sing Rossini at Carnegie Hall; sitting in stage seats at Horne recitals in Lincoln Center and in Brooklyn; attending first nights of *Les Contes d'Hoffman* and *La Traviata* at the Met; seeing Hitchcock films this past spring.

It was Richard who kept me going in my vain attempts at writing the great Gay American novel. And Richard with whom I made music in two office talent shows. It is hard to believe he won't still be here. I will miss him sorely.

In love and struggle,
Bruce-Michael Gelbert
Brooklyn, NY

boycott harms innocent women

Dear GCN:

I was sorry to see a letter in GCN advocating a boycott of Naiad Press. Whatever you think of the sale of stories from *Lesbian Nuns* to *Forum*, the fact is that a boycott will harm innocent women: writers whose books Naiad publishes and distributes.

It's unfair and unethical for angry women to jeopardize the income of the forty lesbian writers who publish with Naiad. And it's arrogant to communicate a press for one bad action after YEARS of work on behalf of lesbian feminism.

You boycotters, where is your sense of justice?

Peg Cruikshank
San Francisco, CA

aids risk calculations

Dear GCN:

A friend who attended an AIDS workshop at the recent Alcoholics Anonymous Gay Roundup in Boston told me he felt the risk of exposure to AIDS was being softpedaled. I don't know what was said at that workshop, but anyone can calculate his risk of exposure to AIDS given the following information.

- 1) Right now an estimated 20% of Boston area gay men are sero-positive for HTLV-III, the AIDS virus. That means they have been exposed or infected with HTLV-III. No one knows what portion of sero-positive people will actually come down with AIDS or AIDS related conditions, but estimates currently range from 4% to 19%.
- 2) Because 20% of Boston area gay men are sero-positive, your risk of exposure to HTLV-III is 20% each time you have unsafe sex with a new partner. (No one knows how often you must be exposed before you actually get infected and develop antibodies. Multiple exposure may be required. My comments are directly solely to the issue of exposure.)
- 3) Your risk of exposure to HTLV-III can be roughly calculated by the following formula: $X \text{ (exposure)} = 1(0.8)^n$, where n is the number of partners with whom you have unsafe sex.
- 4) The following table shows your risk as the number of partners goes up.

Partners	Risk of exposure
1	20%
2	36%
3	49%
4	59%
5	67%
6	74%
7	79%
8	83%
9	86%
10	89%
15	96%
20	99%

If you have unsafe sex with three people, your risk of exposure is 49%; with six it is 74%; and so on.

5) These figures mean that cutting down on your number of partners is a very limited response to the epidemic. For example, if you decrease your number of partners this year by 50%, from, say, twenty to ten, your risk of exposure goes down only ten points, from 99% to 89%. Likewise, if you cutback from ten to five partners, your risk goes down less than a quarter, from 89% to 67%.

The point is this: the most effective way to keep your risk of exposure down — and also to protect your friends and partners — is to stop unsafe sex altogether for the duration of the epidemic. There is some disagreement about what healthy sex is, but most health professionals agree that anal sex with a condom is relatively safe and that oral sex is not safe.

I'm sorry if "unsafe sex" sounds unprogressive. "Epidemic" doesn't sound too hot either, but that's what it is. We here in Boston have a chance of halting this epidemic only if we face it head on. Don't deny the seriousness of the situation. (Leave that to the government.) Do start practicing safe, healthy sex. Do support your friends as they try to do the same. As someone has said in another context, "We're saving our own lives."

Yours truly,
Michael A. Connolly
Cambridge, MA

some food for thought

Dear GCN:

Some aspects of the AIDS crisis rarely make it into print. A poignant letter from a friend who was caring for another friend with AIDS brings out some of those aspects. Because I believe the gay community may benefit from it, I want to share some parts of the letter with GCN readers. This letter reaches you with the consent of my friend, to whom I am routing it for approval.

"Sorry I'm so late getting around to replying to your letter. I have been so busy with 'John Doe' that I have been in no mood to write when I get home at night. Right now John is dozing; so I am taking this opportunity to write. He is very weak and short of breath. He left Beth-Israel Hospital before he should have and is now trying to get into another hospital that has a program for AIDS. I hope one takes him soon because my patience is wearing thin. I am amused at myself for discovering how much more arduous nursing is when you do it for no monetary remuneration.

"I had promised John I would look after him for a while when he went home. Meanwhile my nursing registry called me and asked if I would take care of an AIDS patient. [The person writing the letter is retired.] Although I didn't want to I consented because I felt a moral obligation. Some of the other private duty nurses refuse them. He was 41, very nice, and lived only 6 days.

"When I finally got to John's apartment to take care of him — what a mess! He had hired someone temporarily from a commercial registry. He was a young white man of 22 dressed entirely inappropriately in a tank top T-shirt, leather jacket and blue jeans. On the last day he took John to the bank in the wheelchair. The next day John discovered his Louis Vuitton bag and \$4,000.00 was missing. It took 2 days to get all the bank accounts changed and new money cards issued.

"John's parents are very nice and his mother leaves food for me and John every day."

I hope that the rip-off, the family support, and the attitudes of nurses may provide some food for thought and discussion.

Sincerely,
Glenn L. Sitzman
Mayaguez, Puerto Rico

speak my mind

Dear GCN:

To all gay men and lesbians, bis and all: It seems to me that none of us is really free here in the U.S.A. Why? Because the government and judges and the president are always telling us what to do and not to do. If we were free then there would not be all this harassment against the gay people. We are discriminated against about jobs, foster parenting, and most everything else. So really until we are shown better respect by the government, president and so forth, we are not free.

I just want to speak my mind. What little I have left.

Sincerely,
James L. Cannon
PO Box 129759 (C-2-11/3)
Reidsville, GA 30499

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Visions of Masculinity at 10th Annual Conference

A Decade of Men Loving (Being) Men

By John Lapham

A month ago I attended the Tenth National Conference on Men and Masculinity and found it a celebration of both new energy in the men's movement and reconfirmed enthusiasm for men loving men. More than four hundred men and 40 women from all over the country came to St. Louis to take part in the full schedule of workshops and cultural events offered

The conference ended with a closing ceremony of dancing, drumming, singing and a room full of warmly hugged goodbyes.

at the conference, as well as a full day of organizational meetings and caucuses for the National Organization for Changing Men (NOCM).

The conference began Thursday, June 20, with an evening of "men's culture." Performers included poet Sydney Miller, folksingers Gary Lapow and Geof Morgan, and five men from the St. Louis Black Repertory Company performing their "Men's Croner's," a collection of prose, songs, and poems descriptive of "the male experience in the black community." Their performance drew a standing ovation.

In an encore to his performance, Geof Morgan brought down the house by deciding to sing his "Penis Song" so we could all experience the rare treat of watching Ken Alexander, the sign-language interpreter, perform the sign for "the p-word" over and over with manually expressive variety and precision. I laughed so hard I almost cried. Ken emerged as an ever-present pillar of the conference. He must have sweat through ten changes of clothes as he gamely interpreted all the major

and live speakers to present a tightly edited history of ten years of men's organizing. Both the speech and the "Retrospective" gave ample evidence to a decade's growth and change in the men's movement and in society in general.

That night there were short films and dancing. Thinking I was on my way to bed, I checked in for "just one dance," but stayed there whooping it up for two hours with the rowdy crowd of happy, footloose, and very sweaty brothers and sisters.

Saturday and Sunday were

events under hot lights in very warm rooms.

Friday's schedule was filled with organizational meetings for NOCM task groups such as "Ending Men's Violence," "Gay Rights," "Fathering," and "Racism and Sex Roles." The meetings I attended were marked by clarity, good listening, and a certain undercurrent of pride and delight in being part of this process

packed with workshops — 122 of them — covering a great range of topics which fit loosely into the categories of personal growth and counseling, culture and art, action skills and networking, theory and academic work, and outreach. Twenty of the workshops focused specifically on gay, bisexual, lesbian, and related themes. Lots to choose from. The quantity, quality, and variety of these offerings ably demonstrated the continually growing expertise and dedication of people focusing on men's issues.

Saturday afternoon a few hundred of the men at the conference took part in "Brotherstorm," a public demonstration in support of ending men's violence which had been organized to coincide with similar events in other cities. Our demonstration included a vociferous march and a short rally, during which we observed a three-minute silence synchronized with silences at the other rallies.

At the demonstration a call was

...a celebration of both new energy in the men's movement, and reconfirmed enthusiasm for men loving men.

made for more men to become involved in ending men's violence. This call echoed other voices at the conference suggesting the need for men's movement organizing to become more active and politically defined. While the men's movement remains small compared with other social and political movements, there seemed a general recognition of the importance and need for a much more visible and integrated national men's movement. Next summer's national men's conference in Atlanta will be devoted exclusively

out of the glare of the spotlights and asked those of us who thought the Mass. Dept. of Social Services would not accept us as foster parents to stand. Slowly, something like half the audience rose and looked around at each other. Powerful moment. I cry just thinking about it.

The conference ended with a closing ceremony of dancing, drumming, singing, and a room full of warmly hugged goodbyes. The St. Louis planning group was showered with applause and much deserved praise for the professional excellence of their unpaid efforts. I had spent the conference exhausted, but happy. I just couldn't get enough of this opportunity to spend a few days with so many others who share such moving visions of what masculinity and being men can really mean.

Boston poet Steven Riel, folk-singers Betsy Rose and Fred Small, and singer-songwriter Tom Wilson-Weinberg, whose set included the highlight of the conference for me. After spending a couple of minutes clarifying the foster parent policy controversy to the audience, Tom came forward

He asked those of us who thought the Mass. Dept. of Social Services would not accept us as foster parents to stand. Slowly, something like half the audience rose and looked around at each other.

Seidner, Franklin Abbott (who also sang), Bob Vance, and Clive Matson, folksingers Jim Andrisse, Bill Dicker, and Rick Goldin, and mimes Dale Petty and David Conklin. Rick Goldin's set included a song he recently wrote about the Massachusetts foster parent issue with the refrain, "True love has no sexual preference."

I noticed a relaxed and very visible gay presence at the conference. The participation, contribution, and resource of gay men and lesbians in the men's movement was very evident. This was recognized several times by speakers, and warmly celebrated by applause. I felt there was a safety there to be oneself.

Saturday night's concert was a glowing example of this safety and celebration. Doubling as the opening event of St. Louis' Gay Pride Week, the concert began with St. Louis' own versatile pop/rock duo, Hawkins and Gelear (both women), whose electric arrangements and irreverent antics were much enjoyed. Their set was followed with performances by

out of the glare of the spotlights and asked those of us who thought the Mass. Dept. of Social Services would not accept us as foster parents to stand. Slowly, something like half the audience rose and looked around at each other. Powerful moment. I cry just thinking about it.

The conference ended with a closing ceremony of dancing, drumming, singing, and a room full of warmly hugged goodbyes. The St. Louis planning group was showered with applause and much deserved praise for the professional excellence of their unpaid efforts. I had spent the conference exhausted, but happy. I just couldn't get enough of this opportunity to spend a few days with so many others who share such moving visions of what masculinity and being men can really mean.

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If She Can Do It...? Taking Risks in the Straight World

By Fage's Kaddish

I'm not really out, I guess. Not to straight people. If you go to gay/lesbian or bisexual groups, you're simply accepted. No need to say anything. No one in my office, no one in my family except

Coming Out

my mother, none of my straight friends. Too dangerous, because I do live in the straight world. Of course I'm *liberal*, everyone knows that. But then, I speak up for all kinds of groups. The only straight person who I have come out to is a conservative, Catholic, Republican man.

My family is always trying to change me for the better. Well-meant, I understand. But I tell them nothing, nothing of what is me, for fear they will scoff at it and scorn it and say my life is worthless.

Not a likely choice. Anti-abortion, Vietnam vet, voted for Reagan and Shamie — the works. But I trust him implicitly, absolutely. Not to make my life his personal business. To accept, and try to continue our relationship as it has been, co-workers and friends. How rare is the quality of acceptance? My family has always

been trying to change me for the better. Obviously they think I have potential. Well-meant, I understand. But I tell them nothing, nothing of what is *me*, for fear they will scoff at it and scorn it and say my life as it is, is worthless, until — guided by their expert wisdom — I improve.

The office, of course, is another matter. Some people I can barely get along with. I don't want to give them ammunition. Some good, considerate, ignorant rednecks. Okay, that may be strong. But people who I now have friendly, working relationships with, knowing that the knowledge would change them. Some who might accept. I'm thinking of one woman friend. I'm just not sure how discreet she would be. (I have my own

suspicions about some others, but no one I know for sure.)

My mind has been messed up all afternoon; I can't concentrate on anything. My friend, the conservative. I must have said things before; I don't know exactly. I did tell him to watch the *Kate and Allie* show with the lesbian couple on it (and he did). Two weeks ago, he

New Faces for Dorchester GALA



Dorchester Gay and Lesbian Alliance's first Co-director William Hutchinson (center) hands over *Robert's Rules of Order* to (from left to right) new Co-directors Ed Cook and Diane Fischler, Secretary Todd Luspinski, and Treasurer Lucia Littlefield. The new officers, elected on June 20, hope to expand the organization from its current membership of 650 women and men who live, love, labor, or learn in Dorchester. They are especially interested in involving more women, older people and people of color in this group.

Dorchester GALA sponsors frequent parties and other social events, including a monthly potluck (usually the first Sunday of the month), and publishes a monthly newsletter. For more information, please call Ed at 288-4367 or Diane at 288-9155, or write: Dorchester GALA, P.O. Box 329, Dorchester, MA 02122.

asked me — just like that — "Are you gay?" (Quietly, no one else around.) But I never said it before. I didn't want to lie, but couldn't quite tell the truth. I whispered, "I'm bi-." (Well, I've been with men.)

I was working so hard at being cool, I was sweating for the rest of the day. And today at lunchtime I took him to the gay bookstore "Glad Day." His idea; he wanted to see it. He looked around for a while and opined that some of the magazines were probably porn. I said I was sure they were.

But later this afternoon I asked him not to tell anyone else in the office. No problem.

This is like living a fantasy. I know the Real World isn't like this. I know I'm weak and afraid of being hurt. But I just remembered something about my woman friend. *She trusts me*: my knowing something which doesn't change who she is or what she does, but might change some people's reactions to her. If she can go so far, can't I?

We invite readers to submit articles for Coming Out, a series in which lesbians and gay men tell the stories of their individual sexual, social, emotional and political emergence. The articles should be no longer than 1500 words and, if possible, should be typed (double-spaced, please). Send to Coming Out, GCN, 167 Tremont St., 5th floor, Boston, MA 02111.

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PORNGRAPHY

WHAT'S BEST FOR WOMEN?

FACT: ...as more women's writing and art on sexual themes emerges which is unladylike, ...power-charged, pushy, vulgar, urgent, confident and intense, the traditional foes of women... will find an effective tool of repression in the ordinance."

By Janice Irvine

Generations from now, when feminist historians chronicle our movement, they might well dub this era "the porn period." It is a time of divisiveness, with some feminists producing pornography, others refusing to stock it in bookstores, and a spectrum of middle positions. Debates and arguments have escalated, sometimes degenerating into personal attacks, as feminists attempt to come to terms with pornography, and by extension, all sexually explicit imagery.

Within the women's movement until recently, the porn terrain had been uncontested since the formation of Women Against Pornography (WAP) and other anti-porn groups in 1979. Their analysis identified pornography as the cause of violence against women and located it at the heart of women's oppression. With porn clearly targeted as "the enemy," they launched attempts to eradicate it, including the anti-pornography ordinance drafted by Catherine MacKinnon and Andrea Dworkin. The ordinance, first introduced in Minneapolis in 1984, defines pornography as the "graphic sexually explicit subordination of women" and enables women to bring civil suits against producers or distributors of porn. Under the ordinance, pornography is considered a form of sex discrimination.

As variations of the ordinance spread, other feminists galvanized to oppose them. When anti-porn legislation was introduced in Suffolk County, New York, the Feminist Anti-Censorship Taskforce (FACT) formed in September, 1984. Originally intended to be a short-term group, FACT was committed to challenging the monolithic view that all feminists supported the porn ordinances. FACT members have continued their efforts at public education and opposition to the ordinances, even after the defeat of the Suffolk County legislation. In April, FACT submitted an amicus brief to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in Indiana where an anti-porn ordinance is under review, after the U.S. District Court of Southern Indiana ruled it unconstitutional.

When WAP also filed a brief — in support of the ordinance — the Indianapolis legislation became an arena for feminists to air opposing analyses of pornography, sexually explicit imagery, sexist violence, and the overall oppression of women. At the core, however, lies a fundamental difference among feminists about the nature of women's sexuality.

Supporters of the anti-porn ordinances argue that pornography should be eliminated since it "subordinates" women, triggers violence, and causes the oppression of women. Conversely, the FACT brief argues for an end to the historically repressive notion that women are repulsed and degraded by explicit sexuality; it emphasizes the importance for women to explore traditionally taboo areas of sexuality. "We were not going to wring our hands and talk about how terrible porn is, but the First Amendment should protect it anyway. We wanted to come out strongly in favor of the value of sexually explicit speech," said Nan Hunter, of FACT.

Written by Nan Hunter and Sylvia Law, of New York University, the FACT brief is less a legal document and more a manifesto for the sexual liberation of women. It is extraordinary both for its historical breadth and for its unwaveringly radical analysis of women and sexuality. "We tried to write a brief that expresses a better feminist view of what women's sexuality is than the one expressed by MacKinnon and Dworkin as legal doctrine," Hunter said. The result is a document that FACT members hope will serve not only as a legal argument but as an educational and organizing tool within the women's movement. "We wanted to structure the arguments in such a way that they would influence the women's community and the court. We tried to infuse our politics into the arguments but present the arguments with enough craftsmanship so they would be persuasive to the court and to other women lawyers," said Hunter. She noted that there is freedom to writing an amicus brief in that one can deal with underlying political questions and not be confined to the technical aspects of a case. "We believe this ordinance works against the notion of sex equality. Our notion of sex equality may be radical for a court to hear...but part of the function of amicus briefs is an educational function for the court," she said.

The FACT brief centers around two major arguments: First Amendment rights and Equal Protection principles. Under the First Amendment arguments, the brief claims that the language of the ordinance is so vague and so sweeping that it would suppress not just violent pornography, but any sexually explicit images [see box]. The brief criticizes a reliance on the legal system for decisions about depictions of sexuality that involve highly personal and subjective interpretations: "The constitutionality of the ordinance depends on the assumption that state agencies and courts can develop clear definitions of terms like 'sexually explicit subordination,' 'sexual object,' and 'scenarios of degradation' and of 'debasement.' In truth, these terms are highly contextual and of varying meanings. Worse, many of their most commonly accepted meanings would, if applied in the context of this ordinance, reinforce rather than erode archaic and untrue stereotypes about women's sexuality."

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The brief documents how the legal system has traditionally institutionalized a double standard that women's interest in sexual expression. The Comstock Act, for example, which prohibited mailing or transporting "obscene, lewd or lascivious" material, was used to deny women access to information on birth control and abortion. FACT argues that, historically, attempts to regulate women's sexual morality have only resulted in greater repression and restrictions on women's sexual freedom. The Indianapolis ordinance falls squarely within this general "protectionist" legislation.

In its criticisms of the vague language of the ordinance, the FACT brief comes out strongly in defense of sexual minorities. Since ordinance language such as "subordinating" or causing "[their] dignity [to] suffer" is open to subjective interpretation, FACT argues that lesbians and gay men are in particular danger. "The trafficking provision of the ordinance virtually invites new manifestations of homophobia by means of civil litigation against erotica of sexual minorities."

The FACT brief strikes at the heart of the ordinance, denying that sexually explicit speech so directly promotes violence against women as to justify its suppression under the First Amendment. Ordinance supporters have relied on the work of social scientists such as Edward Bernerstein and Neil Malamuth to attempt to establish that exposure to porn causes an increase in aggression and violence toward women. FACT contends that this research has been grossly distorted and misused. Hunter told *GCN*,

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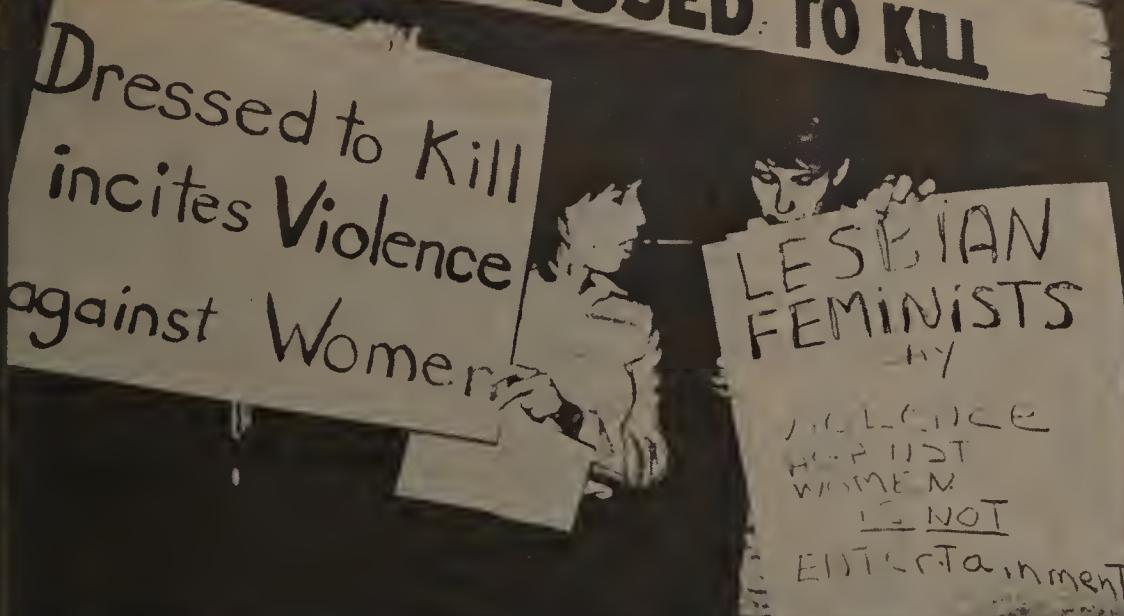


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porters of these ordinances frequently miscite Donnerstein and Malamuth. They cite them for propositions [the researchers] don't support." After a meeting with Donnerstein in April, Hunter said, "His more recent research, as he interprets it, very much confirms that it is the violence aspect and not the sexually explicit aspect, that produces negative effects."

FACT contends that there is nothing so harmful about sexually explicit speech that could justify creating a new exception to the First Amendment. Additionally, they argue that, since sexual speech is political, constitutional protection for sexually explicit speech should be enhanced, not diminished. "For sexual minorities, speech describing conduct can be a means of self-affirmation in a generally hostile world. Constrictions on that speech can deny fundamental aspects of self-identity."

Ironically, under its Equal Protection arguments, the FACT brief charges that the anti-porn ordinance is sexist and violates the equal protection clause. FACT argues that the ordinance presumes that women and men are vastly different sexual beings. It creates a paradigm wherein women as a class are subordinated by sexually explicit material and men as a class are impelled to commit violence because of sexually explicit material. "Such assumptions reinforce and perpetuate central sexist stereotypes; they weaken, rather than enhance, women's struggles to free themselves of archaic notions of gender roles. In so doing, this ordinance violates the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. In treating women as a special class, it repeats

the errors of earlier protectionist legislation which gave women no significant benefits and denied their equality."

FACT disputes the ordinance's major premise that pornography is a central cause of women's oppression. Rather, they point to more significant factors such as a sex-segregated wage labor market, sexist concepts of marriage and family, inadequate income maintenance programs for women, lack of child care, barriers to reproductive freedom, and discrimination and segregation in education and athletics. Images, they note, may help reinforce oppression, but they do not cause oppression.

FACT argues strongly that, as a strategy for fighting violence and sexual coercion, the ordinance is misguided and dangerous. Its focus on images, as opposed to actual conduct, deflects responsibility away from individuals who commit acts of violence. As a law, then, it would do nothing to enhance the actual economic and social power of women.

As a whole, the FACT brief is a compelling feminist argument against the viability of anti-porn ordinances. Viewed in the context of the debates about women's sexuality, FACT would have us step off the path that keeps women entrenched in a status of sexual victimization and repression. While acknowledging our history of sexual inequality and violence, the brief clearly exposes that the ordinance provides no new strategy to fight oppression but instead would increase it. "[Signers of the brief] fear that as more women's writing and art on sexual themes emerges which is unladylike, unfeminine, aggressive, power-

charged, pushy, vulgar, urgent, confident and intense, the traditional foes of women's attempts to step out of the 'proper place' will find an effective tool of repression in the Indianapolis ordinance."

Feminists of diverse political stripe signed the FACT brief, including artists, writers, academics, activists, lawyers, and publishers. The brief represents the politics of FACT members. The more than 80 individuals and groups who signed, however, including Adrienne Rich, Kate Millett, Susan Schechter, Joan Nestle, Michelle Cliff, the editors of *Conditions* magazine, and the Women's Legal Defense Fund, did not necessarily express unqualified support for the arguments in order to endorse the brief. Barbara Kerr, of FACT, told *GCN* that "we wanted a broad range of feminists who opposed the ordinance regardless of their opinion on porn.... We wanted to make clear that [opposing the ordinance] was not [the same as supporting pornography]."

In a statement in the July *off our backs*, Rich emphasized that her decision to sign was neither simple nor hasty, but emerged out of fifteen years of work with issues of sexuality, reproductive rights, and pornography. Given the repressive political climate, she has no faith that the porn ordinance will benefit women, but instead, the resulting censorship "...would mean the loss of images, words and information empowering to women, the loss of our counterstatements, the burial of the very dialogues we need to be having among our communities, in order to organize and act instead of collapsing in fragments."

Artists and writers who signed were clearly concerned about the suppression of their work. Betty Dodson, a writer who has spent eleven years organizing sexual enhancement workshops for women, said, "If WAP had its way, my work and my material would not be allowable. In that sense, I'm the feminist pornographer." Similarly, Cheryl Clarke, a Black feminist, lesbian poet, writer, and member of the *Conditions* editorial collective, expressed her concern about censorship since she is beginning to experiment with sexually explicit writing. She said, "We're at a double danger here as lesbians. We're already censored enough. If these ordinances become a trend in local municipal governments, it will make it even harder for lesbians to express themselves."

It is FACT's assertion of a strong, lusty, and daring female sexuality that locates the amicus brief squarely in the tradition of feminist sex radicals. Instead of a strict civil libertarian defense of the First Amendment, the brief suggests that a woman's enjoyment of pornography is a rebellion from sexual repression and may be a step toward the affirmation of sexual desire.

The emergence of FACT in New York, and other FACT groups throughout the country, shifts the terms of the debate on pornography within the women's movement. No longer can the plethora of organizations opposing porn be interpreted as representative of "the feminist position." And the question about whether anti-porn ordinances are the most effective way to eliminate pornography has been broadened to a concern about whether feminism should be singling out porn as a target at all. Hunter told *GCN* that she agrees and supports criticisms that some porn is misogynist, but that she disagrees with the premise that *all* porn should be attacked. She said, "I think there are many avenues open for feminists to take aggressive action against sexist images in the culture and about anti-women or problematic concepts of sexuality. I completely support attempts to identify and criticize any kind of sexist imagery.... But I have come to believe that any kind of anti-porn campaign which is defined as such and focuses only on sexually explicit materials is a horrible political mistake. It plays into the hands of right-wing attacks on women, on gays, lesbians and other sexual minorities, on abortion, and on our rights to express ourselves in ways that are considered improper or indecent, especially for women."

* * *

Copies of the FACT brief can be obtained by sending \$5 to FACT c/o Hunter, 132 W. 43rd St., New York, NY 10036.

"Pornography" is defined in the Ordinance as follows:

Pornography shall mean the graphic sexually explicit subordination of women, whether in pictures or in words, that also includes one or more of the following:

1. Women are presented as sexual objects who enjoy pain or humiliation; or
2. Women are presented as sexual objects who experience sexual pleasure in being raped; or
3. Women are presented as sexual objects tied up or cut up or mutilated or bruised or physically hurt, or as dismembered or truncated or fragmented or severed into body parts; or
4. Women are presented being penetrated by objects or animals; or
5. Women are presented in scenarios of degradation, injury, abasement, torture, shown as filthy or inferior, bleeding, bruised, or hurt in a context that makes these conditions sexual; and
6. Women are presented as sexual objects for domination, conquest, violation, exploitation, possession, or use, or through postures of servility or submission or display.

Advertising the Revolution

“What Becomes a Lesbian Most?

By Susie Day

Here I am: Today's Woman, striding confidently to my cha-cha lesson. Zest, zest, zest! I sure am pretty. No wonder gentlemen prefer me —

Oh. Pardon. You got me having my "fantasy time." I was pretending I was that cute straight girl in the Hanes pantyhouse commercial. Every so often, I get an urge to become a vibrant young thing, for whom simply having nice legs is self-actualizing.

Please try to understand. I know what I'm doing is wrong; I just can't help it. You see, I used to be a gay radical, like yourself. I, too, was part of the Counter Culture and worked tirelessly for social change. I knew a heck of a lot about class oppression, minority rights, global sisterhood, and had written various position papers on state-of-the-art suffering.

Then one day, I wandered too far from the Counter Culture and lost my innocence. It happened as effortlessly as looking at a billboard. Which is what I did. There, for all to see, were a handsome Caucasian man and his radiant femme, who were obviously so

much in love that they had decided to buy a 1985 Chevy.

My first reaction was based on years of political awareness. "Those couple-talist pigs," I thought. "They've never known suffering. Just look at their privilege." It was then that Western Culture spoke to me in a voice, patient, yet firm: "You want to suffer? Go hang upside down in a meat locker. You want social change? Market it."

My life was never the same after

had offered me — and gay people everywhere — a chance for societal acceptance. Advertising was the answer; pain was no longer necessary. I started a market analysis.

Everywhere I looked, I saw advertisements of happy people. Happy mummies and daddies; happy grannies and grampies; happy smoochers. Advertising seemed to give straight people a certain pride in their sexual orientation. If commercials could sell

For weeks, I worked feverishly, attempting to create commercials in which homosexuals would appear as wholesome and acceptable as the products they sold. I congratulated myself on avoiding the pitfall of browbeating my audience with Counter Culture rhetoric, and decided to scrap my first idea: "Amazing Offer!! FREE — Your own Political Prisoner!!! With Each Purchase of Downy Fabric Softener!!" Instead, I endeavored to show les-

youth, nervously clutching Princess phone): "Pa? Ma? I think I'm a — a —" "You mean you think you're gay? That's fine with us, son. Now, maybe it's time to tell you. All these years, your ma and I, we've been Soviet infiltrators." "Oh, Pa. I love you...."

I decided to submit this piece to a major advertising firm, along with my next effort. A sedate, bespectacled woman sits at a desk cluttered with women's studies tracts, and reads her testimony into the camera. "Hi. I'm an Amazon. I re-member when I used to get annoying men-strual cramps. Then I tried Pamprin. And got fast, fast meta-relief. Just watch." Artful montage of Amazon horseback riding, playing tennis, gathered around a campfire with friends, roasting what look to be hot dogs. All very subliminal. I had originally wanted her to sell Mydol. Get it? My-dol(l)? But I figured the layers of meaning might be lost on prime time.

It wouldn't have mattered. My work was returned, postage due. "Not sexy enough," wrote the

Continued on page 11

When I tried to Question Authority, I found that I had forgotten what I was going to ask it. I began to wonder if it wasn't possible to change the System without hurting its feelings. For it was clear to me now that Western Culture cared.

that. When I tried to Question Authority, I found that I had forgotten what I was going to ask it. I began to wonder if it wasn't possible to change the System without hurting its feelings. For, it was clear to me now that Western Culture cared. Western Culture

heterosexuality to people of completely different genders, who had virtually nothing in common — why, I wondered, couldn't they do as much for homosexuality? Might gay people, too, find cultural affirmation in being recognized as mainstream consumers?

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Advertising the Revolution

Continued from page 10

Madison Avenue firm. "How like Western Culture," I sighed, "to make it all so difficult." I concentrated and tried again.

This time, I had eight to ten young men, clad only in towels and muscles, stacked on top of one another in a steambath. Contented writhing and swirling vapor. Suddenly a door swings open and an attendant sashays in with a tray of sparkling Miller Lite. Rambunctious jostling as the robust lads dash for the brew: "Hey, get off me, fellah. *Nothing* goes down your throat like a refreshing mug

Advertising seemed to give straight people a certain pride in their sexual orientation.... Why, I wondered couldn't it do the same for us?

of..." Well, anyway. Nobody liked this one, either. They said my work wasn't "upbeat" enough.

So I blinked back the tears and tried some perky, humorous quips. "Mr. Whipple! Please don't squeeze my grandfather!" was one. Then came "What Becomes a Lesbian Most?", "Where's the Beefcake?", and, of course, "Madge? What are we soaking in?" But by then, I knew I'd hit bottom. I couldn't go back to the Counter Culture after what I'd done, and Western Culture didn't want me, either. I decided

to go to Madison Avenue and have it out.

"Face it, kid," a top-notch executive told me, "you can't work from within to change the System. Nobody can. It's a total cop-out."

"But Western Culture *said* I could!" I whimpered. "It *said* I could market social change. Western Culture wants us all to be happy. I was there — I saw the pictures!"

"I got news for you, kid. Western Culture was marketing *itself*. It does that a lot. You bought it." He offered me a granola bar.

That was when I started buying things in earnest. After I bought my first pair of pantyhose, life got a little brighter. Then I bought high heels to go with them. Pretty soon, I'll buy dress shields and a push-up bra. After that, I'll save for a nice dress. And, when I lock the door and put them all on, I will be — happy.

That reminds me. How about this for a slogan: "I dreamed I was a heterosexual in my Maidenform...?"

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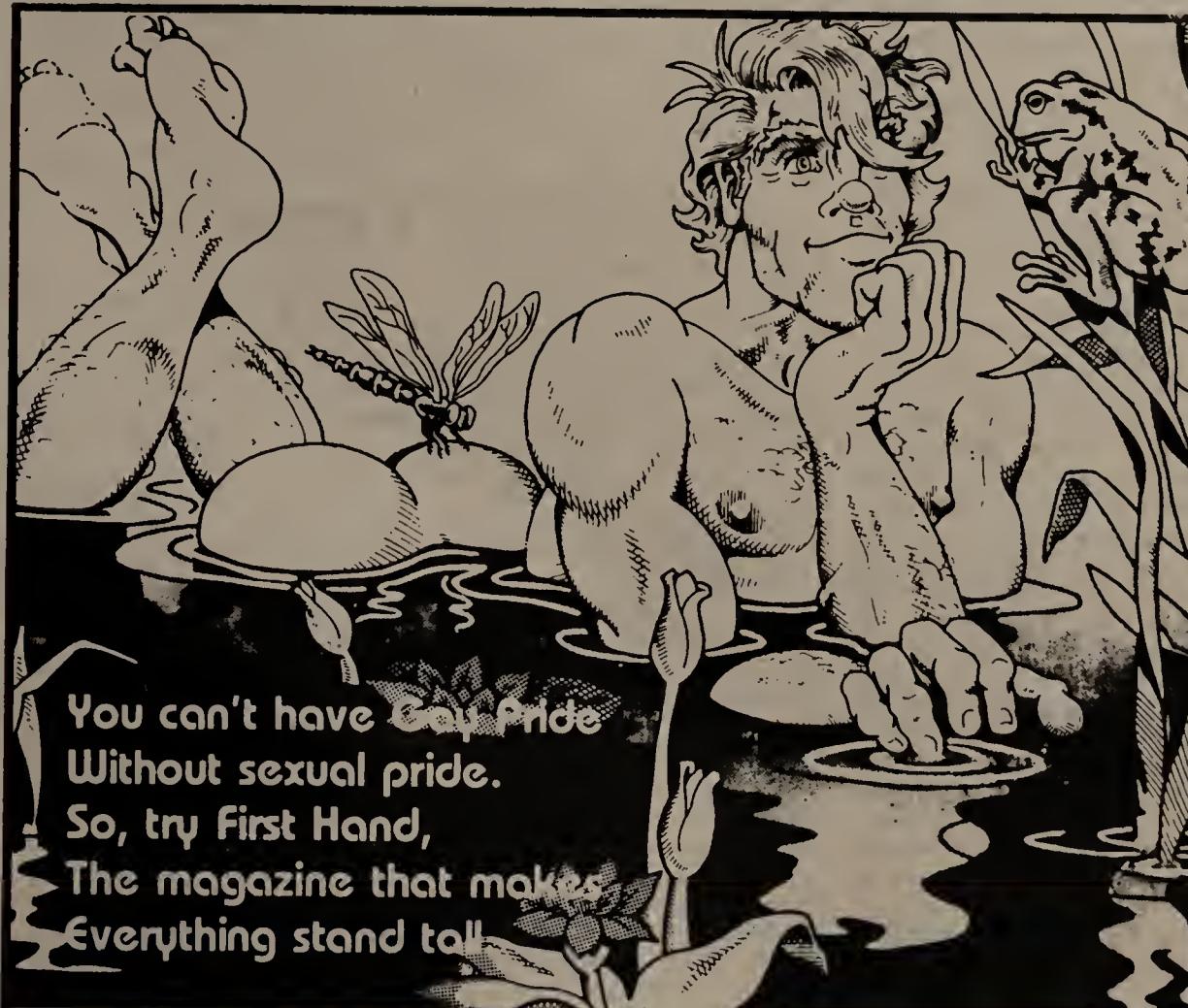
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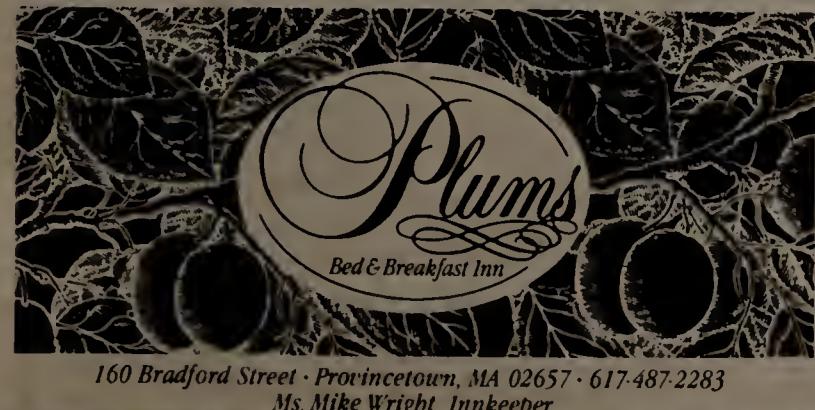
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Military

Continued from page 1

However, Gene Jeffers of the American Red Cross said that the moratorium on the policy had effectively begun before the announcement, and that he knows of no civilian blood agency that has given the military a list of antibody-positive service members.

It is not clear how widely the DoD announcement has been circulated. For example, as of July 24, Peter Page, Director of Blood Services for the Northeast Region of the Red Cross, had not heard of the delay in implementation of the policy, although he stated categorically that in Maine and Massachusetts it had not been implemented by the Red Cross.

Civilian agencies may not have to implement the policy, but according to Lt. Col. Polk of DoD Blood Program, the July 2 announcement does not affect military blood collection agencies, who must still comply. According to Polk, when an active-duty service member gives blood, the blood is given the ELISA test for HTLV-III antibody. If it tests positive on the ELISA once, it is tested on ELISA again and on the more sensitive Western Blot test.

Should it be positive on the Western Blot test, regardless of the outcome of the second ELISA, the donor is notified of the test results, as is the appropriate military health official. The antibody-positive service member is then called in for a physical and for counseling around HTLV-III. If the individual is asymptomatic for AIDS, then s/he will be rechecked periodically; if symptomatic, s/he will be treated. The test findings, as well as issues that arise in counseling, become part of the individual's medical record.

As of July 23, the military had tested 3000 units of donated blood for HTLV-III antibody, 20 of which came back positive on ELISA tests. Results are not yet

available on the Western Blot tests, and as of yet no one has gone through the counseling process.

According to Pentagon spokesperson Major Peter Wyro, the medical records of all service personnel, including notes on issues discussed in medical counseling, are strictly confidential and are covered under the Privacy Act. Lt. Col. Polk concurred that confidentiality will be maintained, and stressed that "there is no intent with this to find homosexuals."

However, according to Kathy Gilberd of the Military Law Task Force of the National Lawyers Guild, there is in general no confidentiality between military doctors and their patients, or in military medical records. "Unless they are taking special precautions outside the standard procedure, unless they are training military doctors not to write anything down," said Gilberd, "military medical records are both practically and legally accessible."

Gilberd is currently representing a man who is being discharged for homosexuality on the sole basis of his military medical records. Bryon Kinney, a hospital coreman with the navy now stationed in San Diego, was formally diagnosed with AIDS while stationed in Okinawa in November of 1984. Kinney, who has Kaposi's Sarcoma, was in the process of obtaining a medical discharge from the Navy when he received notice of an administrative discharge hearing on June 10. The hearing occurred on June 25, when the Navy argued that Kinney should be discharged for both homosexuality and fraudulent enlistment on the basis of undisclosed homosexuality. The only evidence the military presented to support its allegations of homosexuality were Kinney's medical records after his AIDS diagnosis, which stated in part that the "patient has a history of homosexuality." It was decided at the hearing to recommend to the

Navy Personnel Office that Kinney be discharged. Should that happen, he will lose all Navy medical benefits.

Gilberd noted that the danger of this policy is that people may reveal in counseling facts that could lead to their discharge and possible loss of benefits. "People may then try to hide their symptoms and falsify their histories for fear of discharge," she said, "and therefore not get the treatment they need."

— filed from Boston

Forum '85

Continued from page 1

reached the end of the decade for women and yet, how many women outside of this room even know we had a decade?.... We have come to the end of the decade, and we are told by the Heritage Foundation, speaking for the Reagan administration...that we should 'stick to women's issues' and not let 'politics' divert us.... Well, it seems to me we have a contradiction here. Because we can't talk about *equality* without talking about racism, without talking about equality for all people, without talking about apartheid, pay equity, political access, and representation.... We can't talk about development and not talk about the fact that 500,000 people in the state of Massachusetts are living below the poverty line. We can't talk about development and not talk about the fact that Black people in Roxbury do not have control over development in our own community, a 56-year-old Chinese man was beaten by police in his own community [see *GCN*, Vol. 12, No. 49] because Asian-Americans do not have control over the development of their community.... Don't tell us to go to Nairobi and be good little girls. We are going to Nairobi to represent ourselves and the millions of poor women, working women, and women of color across the

United States. We are going to Nairobi to criticize the role of our government in holding back not just the progress of women in the U.S. but of women all over the world."

According to Suzi Salmon of the Lesbian and Gay Defense Committee and Women for Economic Justice, a Boston-based education and advocacy group active in organizing for the Kenya conference, Dukakis admitted during his remarks at the ceremony that he had prevented his wife Kitty from joining the delegation to

Boston *Herald*, "Of the 8,000 women at the last meeting in Copenhagen, fewer than 100 were Black American women. Having the final meeting in Kenya was a conscious attempt to increase the number of women of color attending worldwide."

Many of the participants in Forum '85 have explicitly rejected the idea that the official U.S. delegation represented women in the U.S., and have strongly opposed the efforts of Maureen Reagan, et. al., to define issues appropriate for discussion as those



Marilyn Humphries

Pam Jones speaking at ceremony for Mass. delegation to Forum '85

which do not challenge U.S. policy.

There had been a series of attempts to undermine Forum '85, including changing the dates of the Forum at the last minute, rumors of threats to arrest lesbians or not permit them or radical women to attend, and the eviction of some participants from their hotel rooms — which had been booked in the fall of '84, according to Boston's Black newspaper *The Bay State Banner* — to make room for official delegates. More information on Forum '85 and the official U.N. Conference will appear in an upcoming issue of *GCN*.

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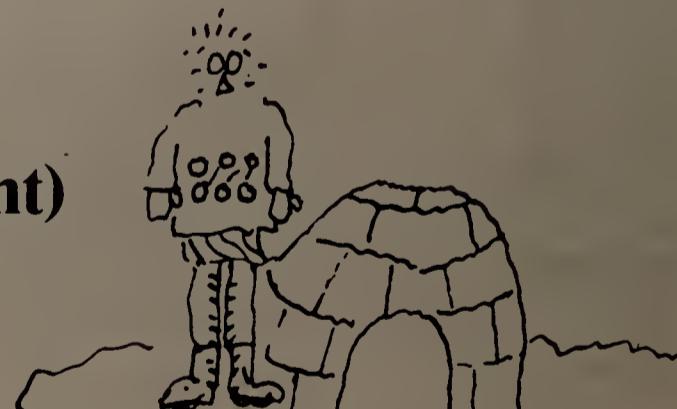
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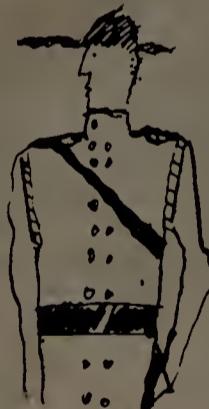
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Inc., since 1976, is a support group of
several hundred gay/lesbian Advent-
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chapters nationwide. Ask for brochure.
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JOHNNY DIED TODAY...

14 year old Joey will blow out his
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slash his wrists in the days to come. All
because you're too scared to protect
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D.O.B.

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Ave, Camb, Old Bap Chr. Raps evry
Tues, Thurs 8pm. Special raps for 35+;
parents; yngr wmn; baby brtrs; singles;
coming-out; Issues forum. All 8pm.
Mnthly events, outing club, library. Info:
661-3633. All women invited to par-
ticipate. (0)

LESBIANS

Are you Lesbian, Bisexual or unsure?
Looking for a group to go to?
Come join us at BAGLY.

Call Tony, 497-8282.

(13/32)

QUEER IN QUINCY?

CALENDAR

July 27
to
August 12

27 saturday

Boston — BAGLY's 5th Anniversary Party. Somewhere Else, 295 Franklin St. Noon-6PM. All interested youth, 22 and under.

Ogunquit, Maine — Beach trip with Jewish Women's open discussion group. Raindate: Sunday. Info: 497-1311 or 395-1602.

Cambridge — Marcia Taylor Concert & Dance Party to benefit Mobilization for Survival. First Parish Church, Harvard Sq. Concert, 8PM, \$5. Party, 10:30PM, \$3. Both \$7. Info: 354-0008.

Cambridge — "Jungle of Cities" by Bertolt Brecht, performed by the Harvard-Radcliffe Summer Theatre. Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St. 8PM. \$5.50/\$3.50 with student I.D. Continues through August 3. Info: 864-2630.

Boston — "Starting Here, Starting Now," performed by the Next Move Theatre. One Boylston Place. 6PM & 9PM. \$15 & \$17. Continues through August. Info: 423-5572.

Boston — "Up on the Roof," a soap parody by Bruce Dale. New Ehrlich Theater, 539 Tremont St. \$6-\$11. 8PM. Continues till Aug. 3. Info: 482-6316.

Cambridge — Arts for a New Nicaragua presents "Duo Guardabarranco and Salvador Bustos." Paine Hall, Harvard University. 8PM. \$6. Info: 353-1937.

28 sunday

Boston — Concert in the Park with the Lesbian/Gay Freedom Trail Band. Parkman Bandstand, Boston Common. 3-5PM. Donations requested.

Boston — Benefit brunch for Michael Kane, at-large candidate for Boston City Council. Downtown Cafe, 14 LaGrange St. Noon-5PM. \$5. Info: 437-0117.

Cambridge — Cambridge Neighborhood G.A.L.A. Meeting with "potluck backyard supper." 6PM. Info: Kathryn, 661-6896 or David, 497-6197.

29 monday

Boston — "Gay Boston," a monthly gay & lesbian television magazine. Channel A3. 6PM. Repeat broadcast, August 15, 7PM.

30 tuesday

Cambridge — Lesbians & Business Issues discussion for women. Daughters of Bilitis, 1151 Mass. Ave., Old Cambridge Baptist Church. 8PM. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

Boston — Disabled People's Liberation Front celebration of wheelchair accessibility at Sack Cheri, 30 Dalton St. 6:30PM.

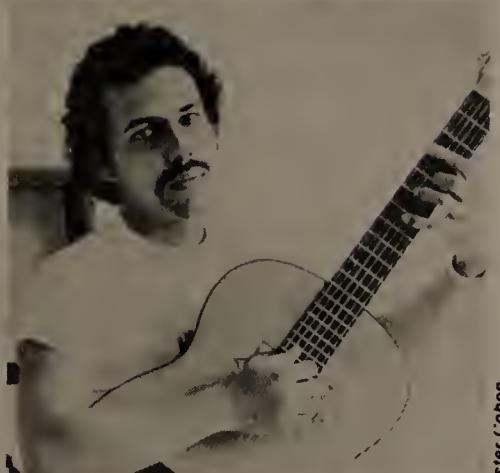
31 wednesday

Salem — North Shore Gay & Lesbian Alliance presents a Moonlight Boat Cruise. 7-11PM. \$10. Cash bar, potluck hors d'oeuvres. Info: 639-1398.

New Hampshire — "Women and Human Rights in the Philippines" with Karin Aguilar-San Juan. Info: (603) 447-2280.

august 1 thursday

Boston — GCN's production night when articles are proofread and pasted up. Join the fun; read tomorrow's news today. 5-8PM for proofing, 7:30-midnight for lay-out. 167 Tremont St. (near Park and Boylston "T") GCN: 426-4469.



Salvador Bustos, July 27

Boston — Training for public speakers on recent foster care policy. Volunteers needed. Sponsored by Gay/Lesbian Defense Committee. 7PM. Info: 576-6788.

Cambridge — Margaret Randall reads from her new book, *Women Brave in the Face of Danger*. New Words, 186 Hampshire St., Inman Sq. 7:30PM. Info: 876-5310.

Cambridge — "Lesbians as Parents," a discussion for women. Daughters of Bilitis, 1151 Mass. Ave., Old Cambridge Baptist Church. 8PM. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

Cambridge — Trudy Sandhaus Trio: Studio Red Top's Jazz Women in Concert. Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center, 41 Second St. 7:30 & 9:30PM. \$5/advance, \$6/door. Info: 577-1400 or 492-8436.

Haverhill — GALLYNS, Gay & Lesbian Liberated Youth of the North Shore. For people 22 and under. Info: Larry, 373-7618 or write: P.O. Box 1803, Haverhill 01830.

2 friday

Boston — GCN's VOLUNTEER NIGHT: come help send the paper to our subscribers. Refreshments & good times. Anytime after 6PM. 167 Tremont St. (near Park and Boylston "T") To be let in, buzz GCN's intercom outside the street entrance. GCN: 426-4469.

Errol, NH — Androscoggin River Whitewater Weekend with Chiltern Mtn. Club. Easy rapids. Info: Linda, 734-4066 (6-11PM), 437-6522 (w).

3 saturday

Boston — Wild Women cruise to George's Island. All women welcome. Bring lunch and \$3 for ferry. Info: Mimi, 924-1543.

Cambridge — Harvard-Radcliffe Gay & Lesbian Students Association Summer Dance. Greenhouse Cafe-Science Center. 9PM. \$3. Info: 498-3447.

Cambridge — Amethyst Women's Dance. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8-12PM. \$4 more if/less if. Drug- and alcohol-free. Childcare provided.

Cambridge — Cambridge Peace Festival: food, dance, music, and theater. Cambridge Rindge & Latin High School, 459 Broadway. Noon-6PM. Free. Info: 498-9000 x9535.

Boston — Something About the Women presents "Jazz Women" from Studio Red Top. WMFO 91.5 FM. 11AM.

Provincetown — Awareness Seminar. Provincetown Inn, 1 Commercial St. 10AM-5:30PM. (Registration at 9AM). \$55. Info: 353-0622.

Cambridge — Nicaragua slide show and dance party with Artists' Brigade of June '85. 595 Mass. Ave., Central Sq. 9PM. \$3. Info: 524-6209.

4 sunday

Dorchester — Dorchester Gay & Lesbian Alliance (GALA) Potluck. 7:30PM. Info: Ed, 288-4367 or Diane, 288-9155.

6 tuesday

Boston — Gay/lesbian elderly project: volunteers of all ages needed. Rm. 709, City Hall (use Dock Sq. entrance) 7:30PM. Info: 725-3307.

Cambridge — Disabled Women's Anthology reading with Debra Connors, co-editor. *With the Power of Each Breath*. YWCA, 7 Temple St., Central Sq. 8PM. Wheelchair accessible & sign language interpreted. \$2 donation requested. Info: 354-8807 or 491-6050.

Boston — Susan Abod: zippy lesbian cabaret with Molly Ruggles. Club Cafe, 209 Columbus Ave. 8:30PM-midnight. No cover. Info: 666-3259.

Cambridge — "How to Organize an Outing," a presentation for women by Cora Styles. D.O.B. Forum, 1151 Mass. Ave., Old Cambridge Baptist Church. 8PM. \$1. Info: 661-3633.



Margaret Randall, August 1

7 wednesday

Watertown — "Top Girls," presented by Palfrey's Off-Boston Theatre. 119 Palfrey St. 8PM. \$4. Info: 720-1671 or 254-0199.

8 thursday

Cambridge — "Getting Out" by Marsha Norman, presented by Harvard-Radcliffe Summer Theatre. Loeb Drama Center, 64 Brattle St. \$5.50/\$3.50 students. Continues through August 24. Info: 864-2630.

Provincetown — Virginia Rubino performs reggae/latin/punk/rock on keyboards & vocals. The Cellar Bar of the Crown & Anchor, 247 Commercial St. 9 & 11PM. \$3. Also playing 8/11, 8/22, 8/23, & 8/29.

9 friday

Cambridge — Amelia & Jennifer perform original acoustic music. Modern Times Cafe, 134 Hampshire St., Inman Sq. 8:45PM. Info: 354-8371.

Framingham — Tri-County Association Friday night Coffee Club at Bill's. Info: 655-4268.

11 sunday

Ipswich — Fly a Kite with Wild Women of D.O.B., Crane's Beach. \$8/carload. All women welcome. Bring kite, lunch, swimsuit; soda available. Meet at 9AM. Info: Mimi, 924-1543.

12 monday

Cambridge — Boston Bisexual Women's Network introductory meeting. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Central Sq. 7:30PM. Info: 731-1399.

note this!

Jungle of Cities. By Bertolt Brecht. Directed by Eric Ronis. With Nicholas Lawrence, Charles Puckett, Brigit Fasolino. At the Loeb Ex., 64 Brattle Street, Cambridge. (495-2668) Through August 3.

Jungle of Cities, set in bustling, turn-of-the-century Chicago, tells of the decline and fall of a prairie family in the wake of urban and capitalist blight. Usually played as a typical Brechtian/Marxist political parable, this new and innovative production takes a new look at both the play's aesthetic dimensions and its sexual subtexts. Instead of the brutal neo-realism with which it has become common to play Brecht, director Ronis has opted for a dreamy, Robert Wilson sort of imagistic collage effect. Imaginative and sometimes potent, this re-conceptualization not only revitalizes a text, but also lends an air of humanity that is often missing from productions of Brecht.

But more daring is Ronis' emphasis of the erotic tension between the two major male characters. Bringing out this homosexual subtext, certainly a plausible reading of the original, adds not only humanity but also a much-needed emotional context for the play's action.

Sometimes a bit slow, *Jungle of Cities* needs a bit of patience to sit through, but is ultimately an innovative and challenging evening of theater.

The Legend of Billie Jean. Directed by Matthew Robbins. Written by Mark Rosenthal and Lawrence Konner. With Helen Slater, Keith Gordon, Christian Slater, Peter Coyote. At Sack Theaters.

In a summer of mindless garbage and ultra-serious "art" movies, the frisky, drive-in machinations of *The Legend of Billie Jean* are a welcome relief. Set in Corpus Christi, Texas, *Billie Jean* tells the story of a teenage woman who is framed for an accidental shooting and robbery while defending the honor of her younger brother. She and her brother, as well as two other teen-women, take to the road as self-styled outlaws trying to vindicate themselves. In short time Billie Jean becomes a folk hero and media star. Sort of a *Bonnie and Clyde* without much of a *Clyde*, *The Legend of Billie Jean* has all the earmarks of a pseudo-lesbian pulp hit.

Hardly arguable as a great movie, *Billie Jean* is exciting and potent with its clearly manipulated plot action, a hard-driving pop/rock score (including a Pat Benatar hit single), and very likeable performances from everyone involved. Helen Slater, last seen in the dull-witted *Supergirl*, is great as the country innocent who quickly becomes reality-wise as she realizes her own power and ability.

And just beneath its pop-junk storyline are a lot of interesting zeitgeists about feminism, the power and powerlessness of children, and the drive to fight back. The subtext concerning parental abuse of children and Billie Jean's final retaliation against sexual assault make clear the film's incipient politics.

It may be a drive-in movie, but it is one with style, verve, and sense.

— Michael Bronski

The GCN weekly calendar includes events in the Boston area of interest to the lesbian and gay community. We try not to leave anything out but remember, we depend on you to keep us informed. Let us know as early as possible what your group is planning.

The deadline is Friday noon for the following issue. Just send the information to GCN Calendar, 167 Tremont Street, Fifth Floor, Boston, MA 02111.

Calendar compiled by Miranda Kolbe

GAY COMMUNITY NEWS

BUSINESS GUIDE

BOSTON-AREA GAY/LESBIAN BUSINESS GUIDE

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This guide provides a listing of gay/lesbian owned, staffed or supportive businesses and services. To have your business or service listed (for only \$100.00 per year), call 426-4469.